IV.—BILLS.

A. NON-OFFICIAL BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS ANIMAL SACRIFICES ABOLITION BILL, 1947.

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Madras Animal Sacrifices Abolition Bill, 1947. Sir, it would have been convenient if copies of the Bill had been supplied to hon. Members."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" This is only asking for leave to introduce the Bill. Unless the Government oppose it, the Bill is merely introduced. The stage for discussion arises when the Bill is actually taken up for second reading."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is the Government opposing the Bill? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I take it that there are other people besides the Government to discuss this Bill? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" On a previous occasion I suggested to the Government that even in the stage of introduction copies of the Bill may be made available to the Members. I find it has not been done. The hon. Member came and saw me and wanted permission to tell the House what the Bill is about. He is now telling hon. Members about it."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have no objection, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" I will only make a short statement, Sir, on what is contained in the Bill. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons I have mentioned that the general feeling among the Hindu community of this Presidency has been steadily growing in favour of the abolition of animal sacrifices . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There is a long agenda. I hope the hon. Member will be as short as possible."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" I will not take more than five minutes. In many places the practice of sacrifices has been abolished by local public opinion. The practice has been completely stopped in the neighbouring State of Travancore. The time has come for the law of the land to keep pace with public opinion. For these reasons the Bill is introduced with the object of prohibiting animal sacrifices in connection with Hindu temples. No doubt the practice has been growing steadily less in recent years. I am sure hon. Members from their personal experience know of many instances where this custom has been stopped in villages. I know of one village in Tinnevelly district where the practice of sacrificing a lamb in the temple existed until 10 years ago. But public opinion turned in the village, turned so much against it that the temple authorities stopped this practice. The

religious requirements were satisfied by the sacrifice of a pumpkin
11-30 a.m in the place of the lamb and no evil has resulted by the change. In the Bill, the main operative clause is that 'No person shall sacrifice any animal inside any temple or its precincts.' In a village near Koilpatti, the usual custom for many number of years was to sacrifice a lamb in front of the temple car before it was drawn. But public opinion in the village began to insist that the temple authorities should stop this sacrifice. The persons who used to pull the temple car however said that they would not do their usual work if this custom came to an end. With a view to prevent such a situation I have provided in the Bill that 'No person shall officiate, perform or otherwise serve in the sacrifice of any animal in any temple or its precincts, or shall offer to officiate or serve in any such sacrifice'. As for the penalty clause, I have provided that if the offence was committed while the person was a servant in the temple or the holder of a service in the temple for which he receives emoluments or perquisites, he shall be punished with simple imprisonment not exceeding three months and with fine not exceeding three hundred rupees or with both. The reason for introducing a clause of this nature is that the continuance of the practice is due to the demand of the persons who officiate at such sacrifices.

"With these words, I move for leave to introduce the Bill."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The Government's idea is that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. But that will arise only after the Bill is published in the Gazette."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"None of us want to speak on the Bill. We have not yet got a copy of the Bill and I do not know how we can discuss it at all."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The Hon. Leader of the House himself speaks in that strain. The Bill must have come up before the Party."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"We all know what the hon. Mover wants. But we would like to know how he is going to frame the Bill that he proposes to introduce. The motion is only for leave to introduce, and therefore there can be very little discussion."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I will just read to the House the relevant rules on the subject:—

'*Any member desiring to move for leave to introduce a Bill shall give 15 days' notice of his intention and shall together with the notice submit to the Secretary a copy of the Bill and a full Statement of Objects and Reasons.*

If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the President, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from a member who opposes the motion, may without further debate put the question thereon.

17th December 1947] [Mr. President]

If such a motion is agreed to, the Bill shall be deemed to have been introduced.

As soon as may be after leave to introduce a Bill has been granted, the Bill shall be published in the Gazette.

No motion that a Bill be taken into consideration or be passed shall be made by any member other than the member in charge of the Bill and no motion that a Bill be referred to a Select Committee or be circulated or recirculated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon shall be made by any member other than the member in charge except by way of amendment to a motion made by the member in charge.'

So the position is that if a Member wants to introduce a Bill, it is left to him to explain the Bill. It is not incumbent on the President or the office to supply copies to the Members at this stage. Afterwards, the Bill will be published in the Gazette and there will be discussion.

' *At any time after the expiry of six days from the publication of a Bill in the Gazette, the member in charge of the Bill may make one of the following motions in regard to his Bill, namely :—*

(a) *that it be taken into consideration by the Council either at once or at some future day to be then specified; or*

(b) *that it be referred to a Select Committee of the Chamber; or*

(c) *that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon.*

On such motion, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed, but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principle.'

So discussion is not needed now."

The motion for leave to introduce was put and carried.

(2) THE MADRAS WAKFS BILL, 1947.

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I move for leave to introduce the Madras Wakfs Bill, 1947.

" It is with the greatest regret that one notes that the wakfs in the Province of Madras have generally been mismanaged and their income sometimes misappropriated. The wakf property in many instances has been alienated or adversely held by trespassers or has been subjected to long drawn and wasteful litigation. The selfish and self-centred Muthawallis do not generally maintain even an apology of an account of the receipts and disbursements in respect of the wakfs in their charge. Although the enactments in force regarding the Muslim wakfs cast a responsibility on the